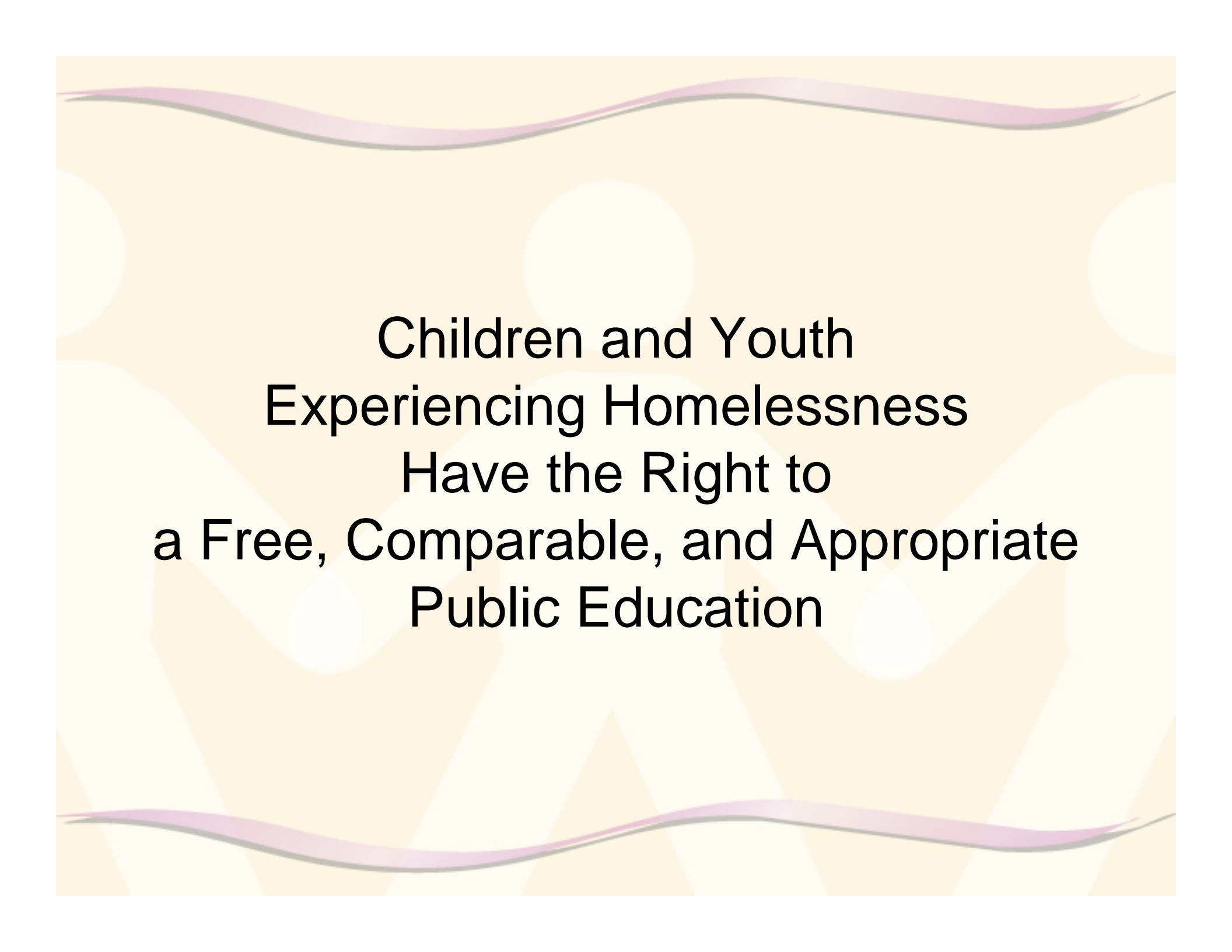




Michigan Department of Education Office of School Improvement

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison Training

The background of the slide features a light yellow color with a pattern of white circles and wavy lines. Two prominent wavy lines, one at the top and one at the bottom, are colored in a light purple or lavender hue. The text is centered in the middle of the slide.

Children and Youth
Experiencing Homelessness
Have the Right to
a Free, Comparable, and Appropriate
Public Education

The Scale of Homelessness

- Up to three million people will experience homelessness this year.
- Approximately half of these people will be children and youth.
- In 2005, in Michigan, 14,000 homeless children were served through the McKinney-Vento grant program.
- Families are the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population.
- So far this year, approximately 6000 hurricane displaced persons have come into Michigan. 500 of these have been children.

Source: National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. (1990). *Out of sight—Out of mind? A report on anti-homeless laws, litigations, and alternatives in 50 United States*. Washington, DC: Author.

Who is homeless?

- An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth who are:
 - Sharing housing due to loss of housing or economic hardship.
 - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate housing.
 - Living in emergency or transitional housing.
 - Abandoned in hospitals.
 - Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, or bus or train stations.
 - Children and youth who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, regular sleeping accommodations.
 - Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in the circumstances described above.

McKinney-Vento Act

- Reauthorizes the McKinney Act originally enacted in 1987.
- Requires educational access, attendance, and success for children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- Provides states with funding to support local grants and statewide initiatives.

McKinney-Vento Act: Enrollment

- Requires public schools to immediately enroll students experiencing homelessness even when lacking:
 - Proof of residency
 - Guardianship
 - Birth certificates, school records, or other documents
 - Medical records, including immunization records
 - Required dress code items, including uniforms

McKinney-Vento Act: Enrollment

- School placement in:
 - School of origin, if the parent wishes and it is feasible
 - School in area of current residency
- Educational rights posted in:
 - All public schools
 - The community
- Access for unaccompanied youth

- A dispute resolution process:

District level process (30 days)

State level process (30 days)

Children remain enrolled in the district until both resolution processes have been completed.

McKinney-Vento Act: Attendance

- Transportation:
 - Identification
 - Communication
 - Follow-up
 - Title I issues

Addressing Needs of Students Experiencing Homelessness

School District

- **Set aside Title I funds.**
- Reserve slots in Head Start and Even Start.
- Ensure enrollment.

Schools

- Enroll students in free breakfast and lunch programs.
- Ensure access to appropriate instructional supports/resources, including those available through Title I set asides, gifted programs, and special education.
- Conduct an educational assessment.
- Provide homeless awareness training to all staff especially those responsible for enrollment.
- Alert teachers of a student's living situation (respecting privacy).

Hurricane Relief Efforts

The [National Center for Homeless Education](#) (NCHE), [National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth](#) (NAEHCY), and [National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty](#) (NLCHP) are coordinating efforts to assist educators and agencies with enrolling children and youth in families displaced by Hurricane Katrina in school and providing them services. [Learn more.](#)

National Center for Homeless Education

For assistance with homeless education issues, contact the NCHE helpline by calling 1-800-308-2145 or by e-mailing homeless@serve.org.

Welcome to the website of the National Center for Homeless Education at SERVE. The Center provides research, resources, and information enabling communities to address the educational needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness.




----- What's New? -----

(View the complete list of [upcoming events](#) or [new resources](#).)

new Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004: Provisions for Children and Youth with Disabilities Who Experience Homelessness

This issue brief explains the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act that pertain to children and youth experiencing homelessness. Strategies for implementation are suggested.

 Download the [brief](#). (416K)

----- National Partners -----



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Education of Homeless Children and Youth

Contact: Mike McGraw or Ruth Bowler at 517-241-1162

What's New

[Enter Local Homeless Education Liaison](#)
[2005-06 Homeless Education Grant Awards](#)
[Homeless Education Dispute Resolution](#)

Program Description

To ensure that homeless children and youth in Michigan have access to a free and appropriate public school education. The [McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#) Subtitle VII-B) of 2002, part of *No Child Left Behind*, requires the Department to implement the following:

- Review and revise, if necessary, all legislation, policies and procedures which impede the enrollment and educational success of homeless children and homeless youth
- Collect and report data regarding the number and location of homeless children and homeless youth
- Adopt a state plan to establish comparable procedures for local and intermediate school boards to enroll and educate homeless children and homeless youth
- Make grants available to local educational agencies to facilitate enrollment, attendance and educational success of homeless

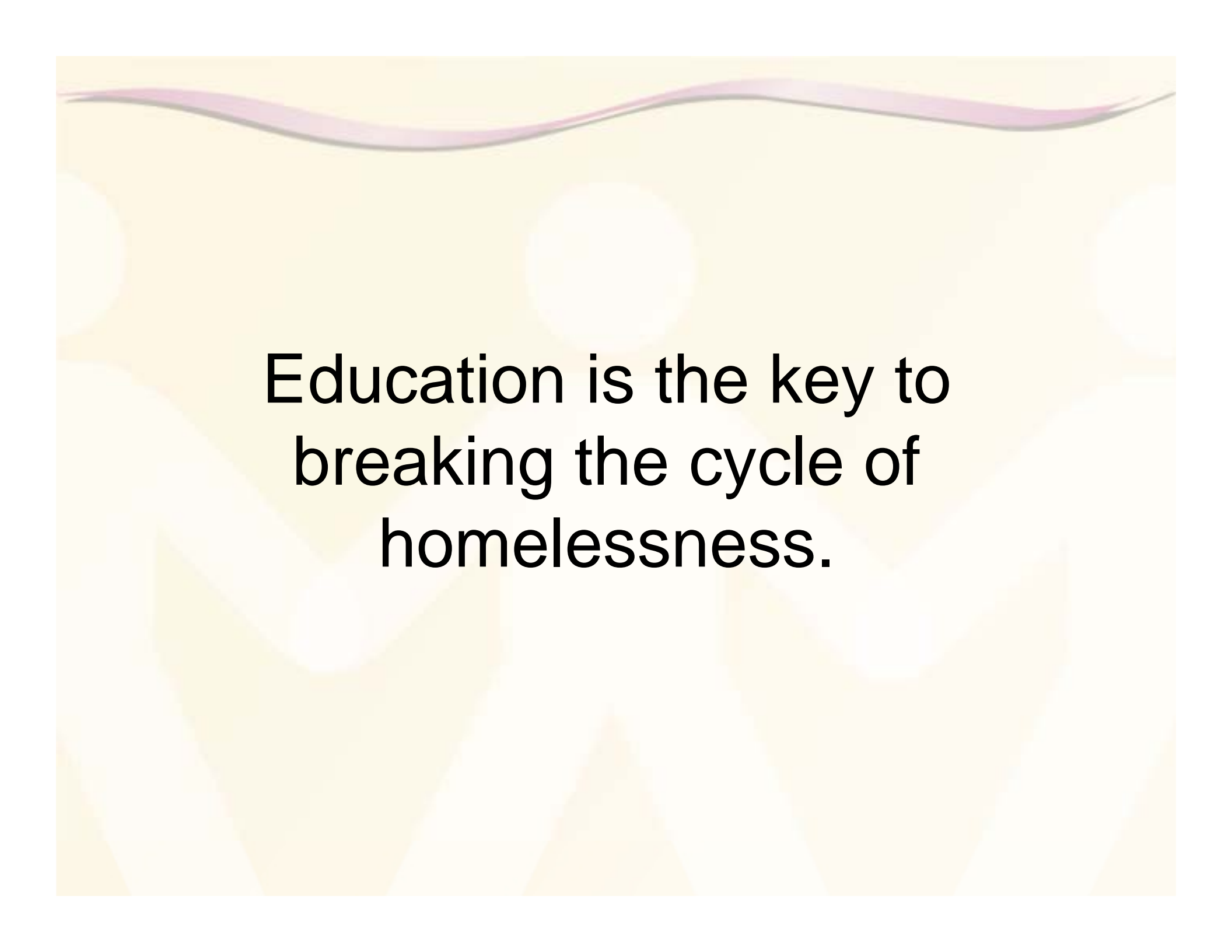
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Working With Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

- Encourage supportive relationships.
- Establish consistent boundaries.
- Have high expectations.
- Recognize stressful environments outside of school, and provide accommodations for homework. (For example, the child may not have the means to be able to make a collage or do a science project outside of school.)
 - Provide needed supplies.
 - Provide time and space in the school.
 - Modify homework.

McKinney-Vento Act: Success

- Comparable services
- Parental involvement
- Liaison collaboration between social service agencies and school districts
- Restriction of the segregation of homeless students



Education is the key to
breaking the cycle of
homelessness.